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## FOREWORD

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### **III. Texts and Stories**

#### **FOREWORD Jacques Barchilon**

The first three tales from oral tradition are geographically quite far apart: a Chinese Kucong tale, a Norwegian story, and a Breton tale. Yet in each story one clearly recognizes the basic element of the supernatural or animal groom. The Norwegian tales are from the nineteenth century's collection by Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe, the "Norwegian Grimm Brothers." In the literary tales that follow one can read the "original" "Beauty and the Beast" in the French version of Mme Leprince de Beaumont and its English translation (by the author herself). The last two stories are witty and distinguished achievements by Angela Carter, no newcomer to our pages. We hope to have provided our readers with good reading enjoyment and cannot help wish that one day a much wider sample of this tale be made available to scholars and lovers of fine stories

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